IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows wherein changes in a claim are shown by strikethrough for deleted matter and underlining for added matter:

~~CLAIM~~WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. (Currently amended) Metal screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, the thickness of the crossing points ~~(36)~~ not being equal to the thickness of the dykes ~~(34)~~ only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

2. (Currently amended) Screen material according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the thickness of the crossing points ~~(36)~~ is greater than the thickness of the dykes ~~(34)~~.

3. (Currently amended) Screen material according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the difference between the thickness of the crossing points ~~(36)~~ and the thickness of the dykes ~~(34)~~ is in the range from 20-250 micrometres.

4. (Currently amended) Screen material according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the difference is in the range from 100-200 micrometres.

5. (Currently amended) Screen material according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the crossing points ~~(36)~~ have an apex angle ~~(38)~~ of less than 120°.

6. (Currently amended) Screen material according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the screen material is in the form of a seamless cylinder.

7. (Currently amended) Screen material according to ~~one or the preceding claims~~claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the screen material is electroformed.

8. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing metal screen material having a flat side, comprising a network of dykes which are connected to one another by crossing points, which dykes delimit openings, in particular according to one of the preceding claims, comprising at least one or more growth steps for electrolytically thickening a flat screen skeleton in an electroplating bath under controlled conditions, in such a manner that in at least one growth step the growth rate of the crossing points is not equal to the growth rate of the dykes, so that in the screen material the thickness of the crossing points is not equal to the thickness of the dykes only on the side of the screen material opposite to the flat side.

9. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the controlled conditions comprise a forced flow of the bath liquid through the screen skeleton.

10. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the flow rate of the bath liquid is in the range from 200 l/dm^2 to 600 l/dm^2.

11. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 8~~-10~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bath liquid comprises a brightener in a concentration in the range from 200-500 g/l.

12. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bath liquid comprises a brightener having properties of the first and second classes.

13. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 8~~-12~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the current density is in the range from 5 to 40 A/dm^2.

14. (Currently amended) Use of the screen material according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 1~~-7 or the screen material obtained using the method according to one of the preceding claims 8-13~~ for the perforation of film material.

15. (Currently amended) Assembly of a support screen and a perforating screen, in which the support screen comprises screen material according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 1~~-7 or the~~

~~screen material obtained using the method according to one of the preceding claims 8-13~~.

16. (Original) Method for manufacturing an assembly of a tubular support screen and a tubular perforating screen, in particular cylindrical seamless screens, at least comprising a step of shrinking the perforating screen onto the support screen.

17. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a cylindrical support screen is subjected to a heat treatment at elevated temperature, so that a support screen with a defined outer diameter (OD) is obtained, and in that a cylindrical perforating screen with an inner diameter (ID) which is slightly greater than the outer diameter (OD) of the support screen is fitted over the support screen, and the unit comprising support screen and perforating screen is subjected to a heat treatment at a temperature which is lower than the temperature used for the heat treatment of the support screen, for a sufficient time to shrink the perforating screen onto the support screen.

18. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing an assembly of a tubular support screen and a tubular perforating screen, in particular cylindrical seamless screens, at least comprising a step of arranging a deformed support screen in the perforating screen and restoring the original shape of the support screen.

19. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~wherein to restore the original shape of the support screen, an inflatable container is placed into the support screen and is then pressurized.

20. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18~~ or 19~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the inner diameter of the perforating screen is slightly smaller than the outer diameter of the support screen.

21. (Original) Method for manufacturing an assembly of a tubular support screen and a tubular perforating screen, in particular cylindrical seamless screens, at least comprising a step of pushing the perforating screen over the support screen with the aid of a pressurized fluid.

22. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one of the preceding~~ claims 16~~-21~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a support screen according to ~~one of~~ claims 1~~-7 or obtained using the method according to one of claims 8-13~~ is used.

23. (Currently amended) Use of the assembly according to claim 15 ~~or obtained using a method according to one of claims 16-22~~ for perforating film material.

24. (New) Assembly of a support screen and a perforating screen, in which the support screen comprises screen material obtained using the method according to claim 8.

25. (New) Method according to claim 18, wherein a support screen obtained using the method according to claim 8 is used.

26. (New) Method according to claim 21, wherein a support screen obtained using the method according to claim 8 is used.

27. (New) Method according to claim 16, wherein a support screen according to claim 1 is used.

28. (New) Method according to claim 18, wherein a support screen according to claim 1 is used.

29. (New) Method according to claim 21, wherein a support screen according to claim 1 is used.